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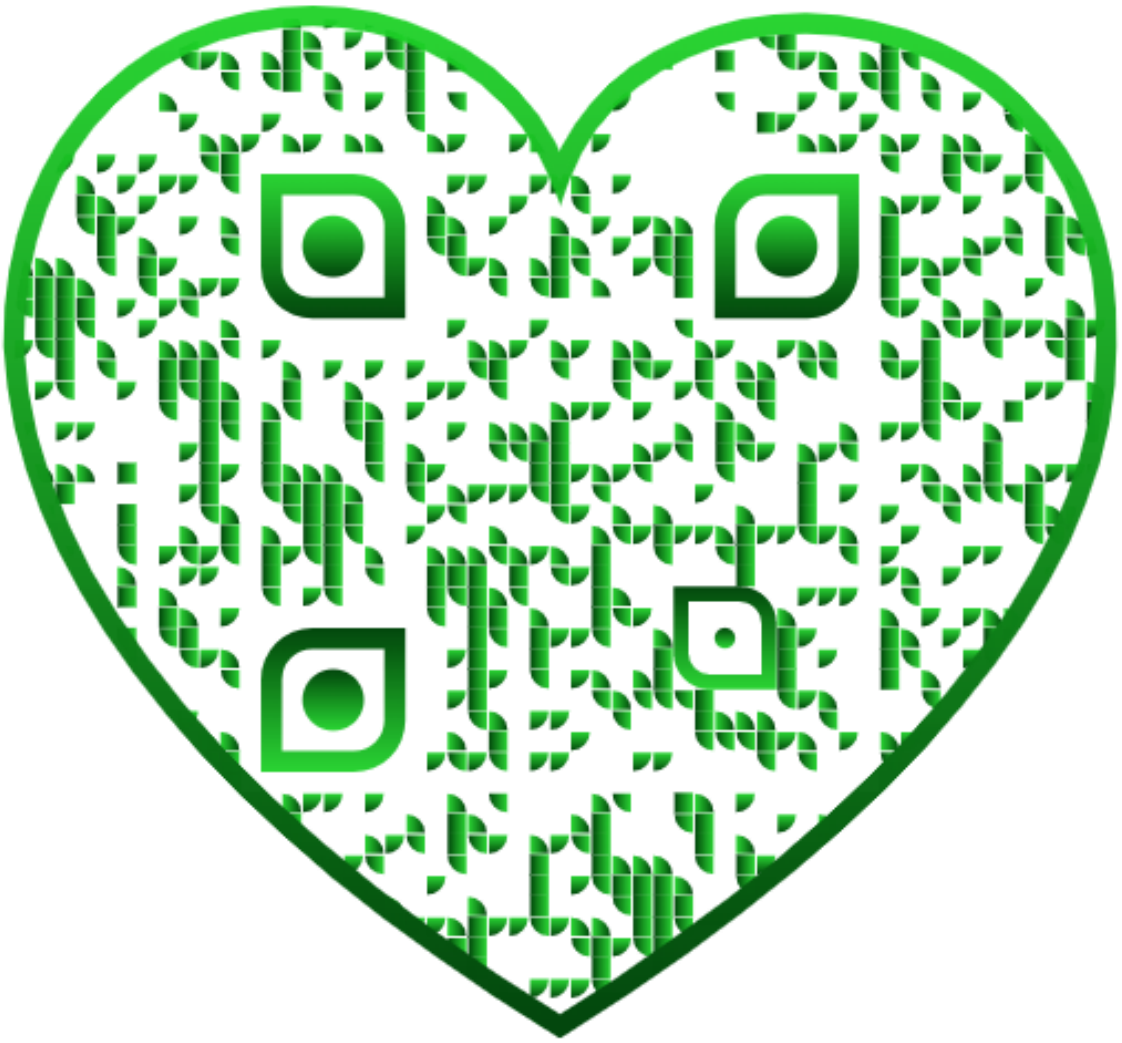
ROCK 'N' ROLL COMICS ™

VAN HALEN

100% UNAUTHORIZED MATERIAL!



THIS IS AN UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY!

1964, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA. DAVID ROTH IS NINE YEARS OLD.
SO, DAVID, YOUR CONSTANT HYPER-ACTIVITY LANDS YOU IN MY OFFICE ONCE AGAIN. I'M GOING TO RECOMMEND THAT YOUR PARENTS SEND YOU TO A SPECIAL GUIDANCE CLINIC FOR HYPERACTIVE CHILDREN.
LITTLE DID HE KNOW, YOUNG DAVID ROTH WOULD TURN HIS HYPERACTIVITY INTO A VERY SUCCESSFUL CAREER. AT THE SCHOOL PLAY THAT YEAR, DAVE GETS A LEADING ROLE...
MY NAME IS MR. BOOKWORM, I HOPE YOU LIKE TO READ...
AT HOME, HIS PARENTS TRY TO COPE...
I'M A PEPPER, HE'S A PEPPER, SHE'S A PEPPER, WE'RE A PEPPER, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO BE A PEPPER, TOO?
HEH, HEH, DON'T MIND DAVE. HE DOES THIS ALL THE TIME, WE CALL IT "MONKEY HOUR."
I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THIS SUMMER, WHEN I SEND DAVE TO VISIT MANNY IN NEW YORK. MAYBE THEN I'LL GET SOME PEACE.
CLANG
COME ON, DAVID, IT'S TIME TO GO TO BED. YOU CAN LISTEN TO THE RADIO THAT YOUR UNCLE GAVE YOU BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP.
BEDTIME ALREADY? I WANNA STAY UP LATER!
THE RADIO, WITH ITS INFINITE VARIETY OF MUSIC, BECOMES YOUNG DAVID'S FAVORITE TOY. THROUGH IT HE LEARNS ABOUT ALL TYPES OF MUSIC AND IS PARTICULARLY MOVED BY RAY CHARLES.
TONNY QUIST
♫ IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE IT'S CRYING TIME... ♫

LATER THAT YEAR, DAVID IS SENT TO NEW YORK TO VISIT HIS UNCLE MANNY. THIS WAS A PROVING GROUND FOR MANY EMERGING ACTS. DAVE WOULD SIT IN THE BACK OF THE CAFE AND SEE LEGENDARY TALENTS SUCH AS JIMI HENDRIX AND CREAM.

THE DIVERSE ARRAY OF TALENT WOULD LATER HELP DAVE AS A PERFORMER TO ADAPT AND EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT MUSICAL STYLES

ISLEY BROTHERS

BILL COSBY

CREAM

QUINCY JONES

AROUND THIS SAME TIME, THE VAN HALEN FAMILY IS IN HOLLAND, IN THE CITY KNOWN AS NIJMEGEN, ONLY FIVE MILES WEST OF THE WEST GERMAN BORDER. TWO BROTHERS, ALEX, 10, AND EDWARD, 8, ARE TAKING PIANO LESSONS.

IT IS AN UNLIKELY SETTING FOR WHAT WILL BECOME THE NUCLEUS OF A GROUND-BREAKING HARD ROCK PHENOMENON.

IN 1968 THE FAMILY MOVES TO PASADENA, CALIFORNIA. ALWAYS A TIGHT-KNIT FAMILY UNIT, THE MOVE STRENGTHENS THIS BOND, AS THEY MUST ALL START OVER AGAIN TOGETHER IN STRANGE NEW SURROUNDINGS.

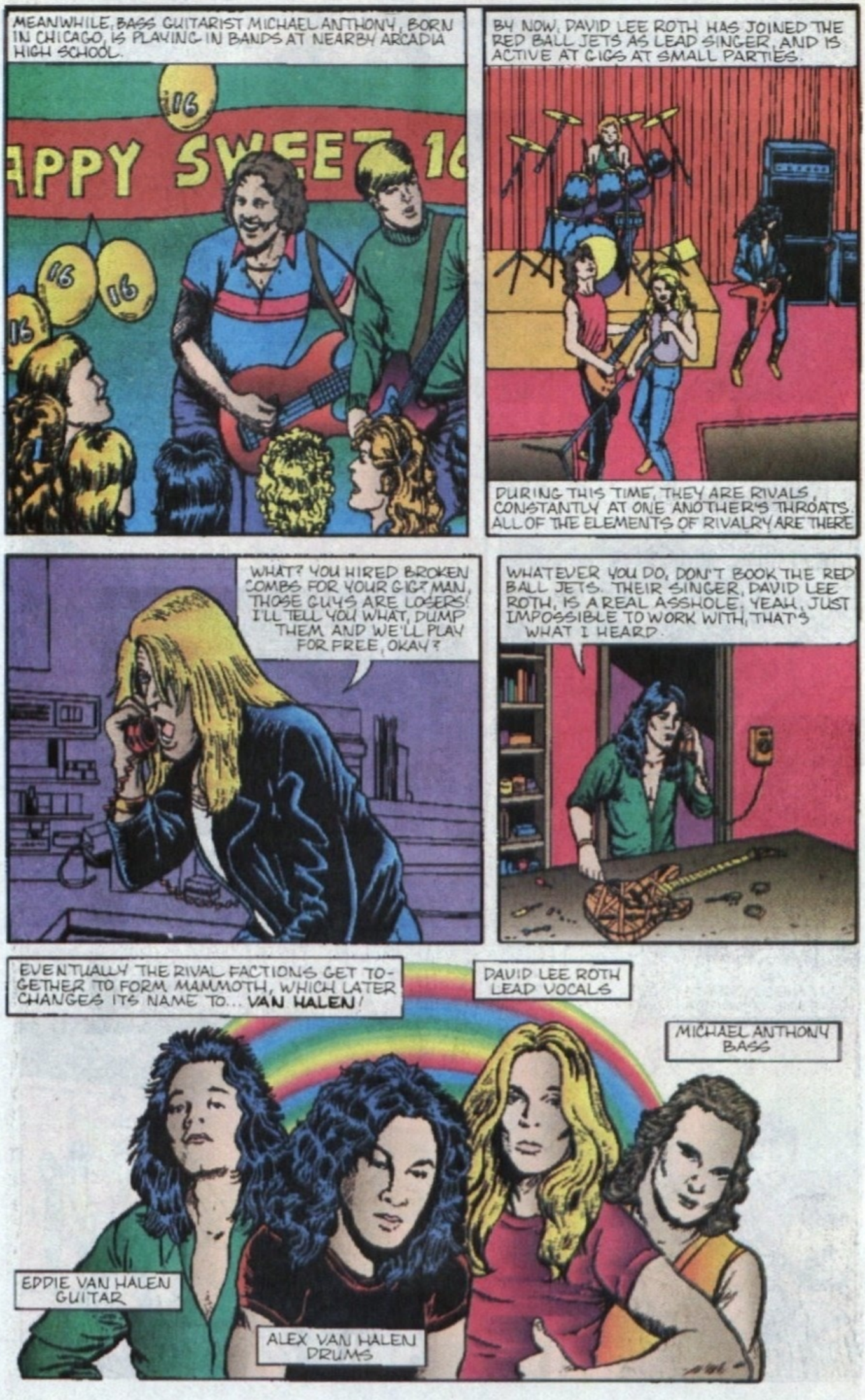
Ralph's

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, ALEX AND EDDIE TAKE UP ROCK INSTRUMENTS, WITH ALEX PICKING UP GUITAR AND EDDIE GOING FOR DRUMS.

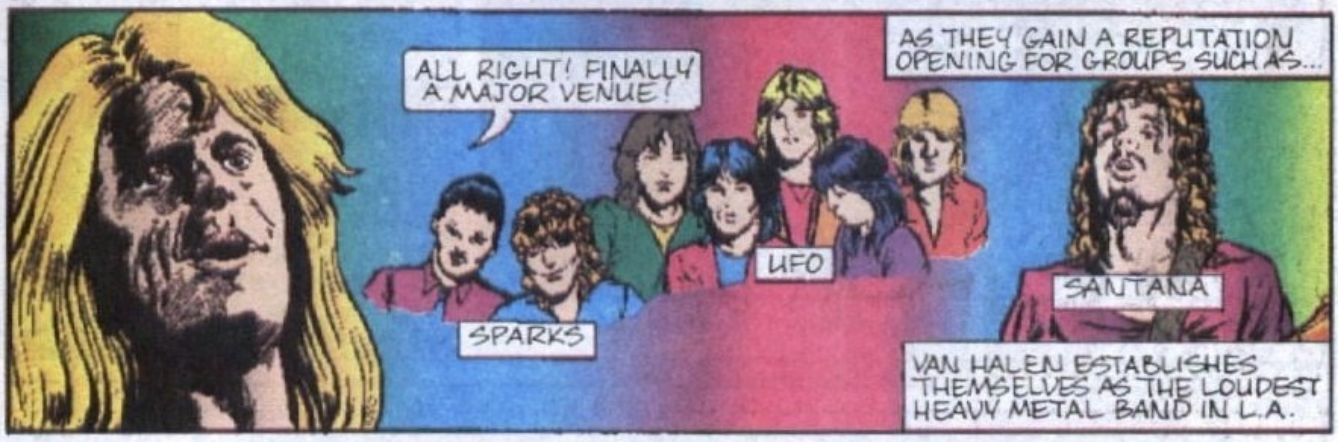
EVENTUALLY THEY SWITCH. ALEX BECOMES A DRUMMER, AND EDDIE BECOMES A GIFTED GUITARIST.

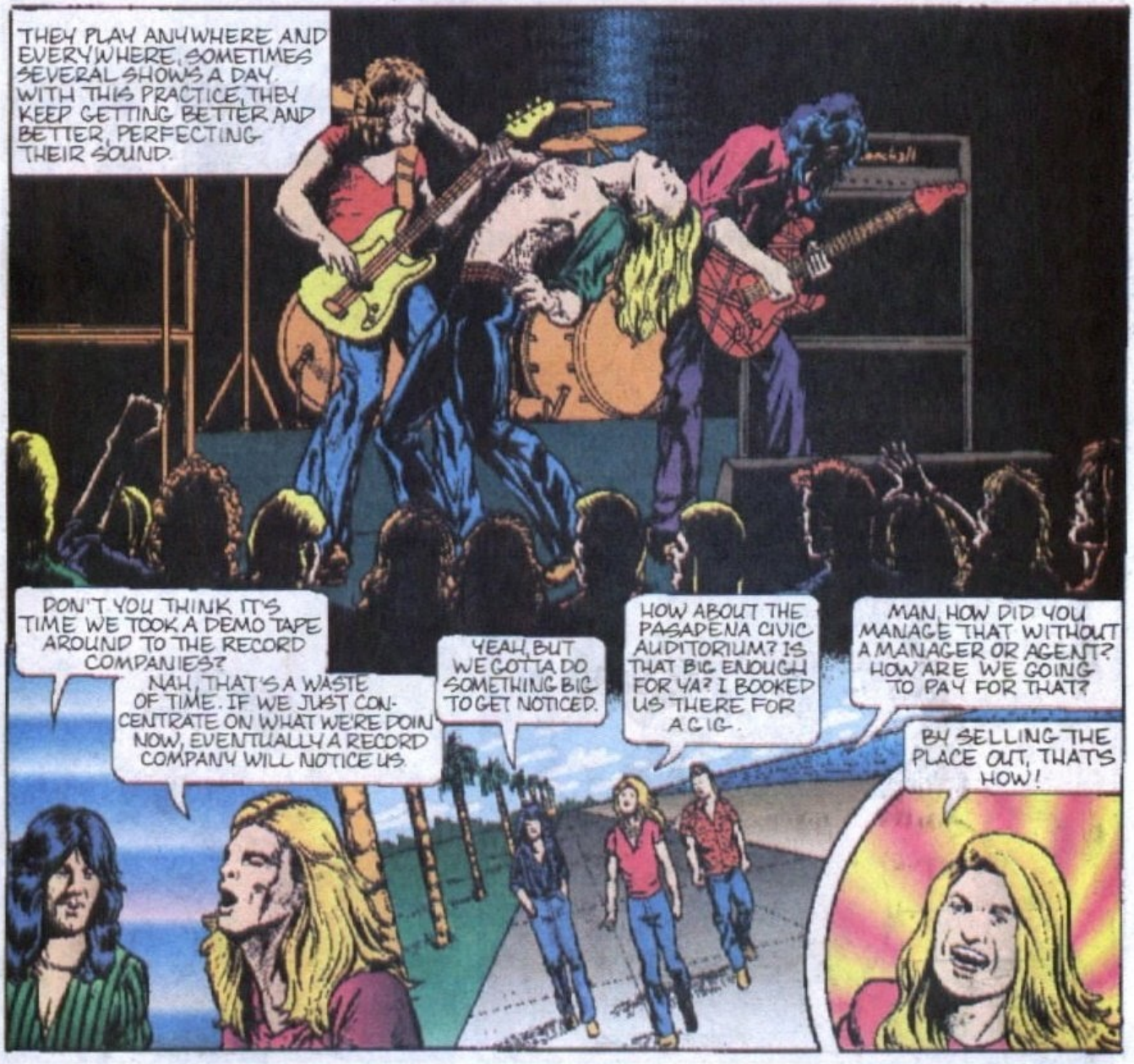
YEAH, THIS IS MORE MY STYLE!

THE VAN HALEN BROTHERS, TOGETHER WITH SOME HIGH SCHOOL FRIENDS, FORM A BAND: THE BROKEN COMBS

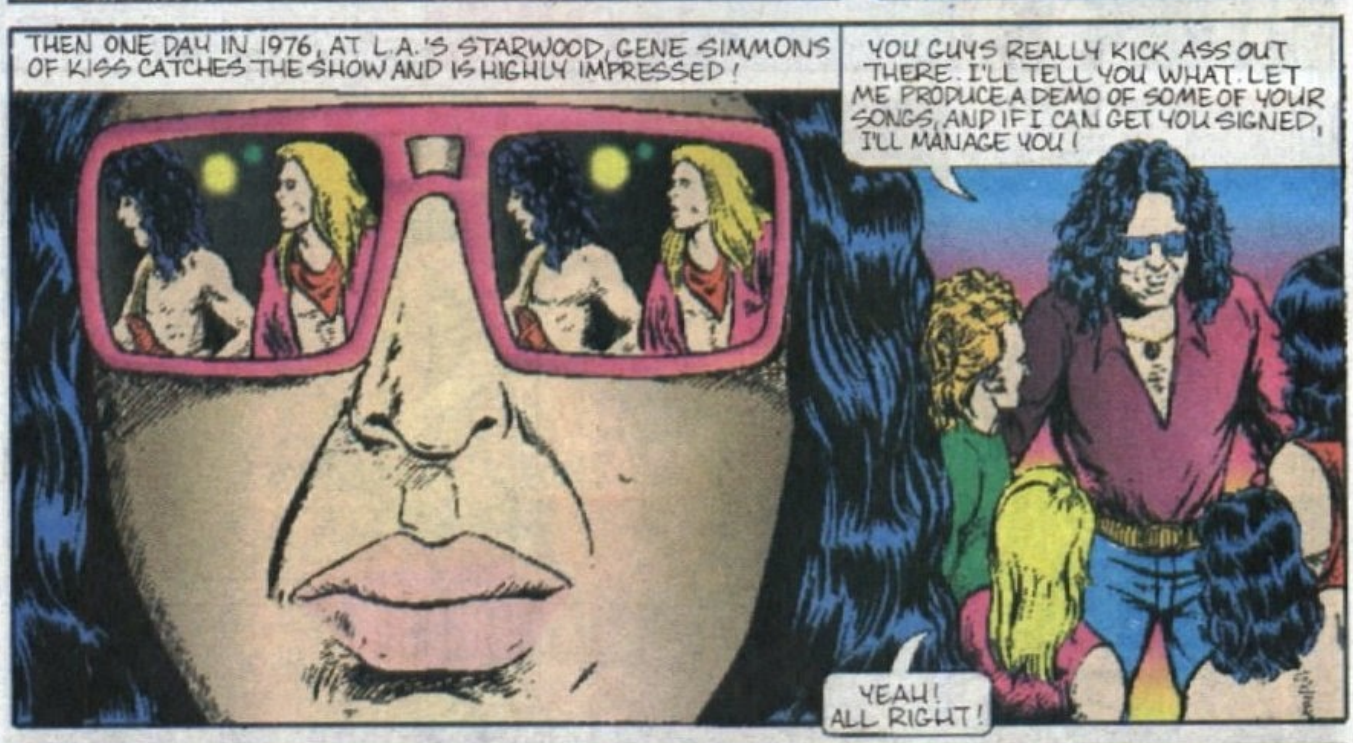

MEANWHILE, BASS GUITARIST MICHAEL ANTHONY, BORN IN CHICAGO, IS PLAYING IN BANDS AT NEARBY ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL.
BY NOW, DAVID LEE ROTH HAS JOINED THE RED BALL JETS AS LEAD SINGER, AND IS ACTIVE AT GIGS AT SMALL PARTIES.
DURING THIS TIME, THEY ARE RIVALS, CONSTANTLY AT ONE ANOTHER'S THROATS. ALL OF THE ELEMENTS OF RIVALRY ARE THERE
WHAT? YOU HIRED BROKEN COMBS FOR YOUR GIG? MAN, THOSE GUYS ARE LOSERS! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, DUMP THEM AND WE'LL PLAY FOR FREE, OKAY?
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T BOOK THE RED BALL JETS. THEIR SINGER, DAVID LEE ROTH, IS A REAL ASSHOLE, YEAH, JUST IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK WITH, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD.
EVENTUALLY THE RIVAL FACTIONS GET TOGETHER TO FORM MAMMOTH, WHICH LATER CHANGES ITS NAME TO... VAN HALEN!
DAVID LEE ROTH LEAD VOCALS
MICHAEL ANTHONY BASS
EDDIE VAN HALEN GUITAR
ALEX VAN HALEN DRUMS

THEY WORK HARD AT GETTING BOOKED AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE EVERYWHERE IN THE L.A. AREA...
MAN, I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE THE IDEA OF CALLING THE BAND VAN HALEN. NOW ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL IT ROTH? OR BETTER STILL, THE DAVID LEE ROTH BAND? OH, I GOT IT, HOW ABOUT-
WILL YOU SHUT UP ALREADY? WE ALREADY DECIDED ON THE NAME...
HEY, GUESS WHAT? I JUST GOT BACK FROM MR. GAZZARIS OFFICE. HE IS GOING TO BOOK US TO PLAY AT HIS CLUB ON SUNSET STRIP!


ALL RIGHT! FINALLY A MAJOR VENUE!
AS THEY GAIN A REPUTATION OPENING FOR GROUPS SUCH AS...
SPARKS
UFO
SANTANA
VAN HALEN ESTABLISHES THEMSELVES AS THE LOUDEST HEAVY METAL BAND IN L.A.


THEY PLAY ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE, SOMETIMES SEVERAL SHOWS A DAY. WITH THIS PRACTICE, THEY KEEP GETTING BETTER AND BETTER, PERFECTING THEIR SOUND.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME WE TOOK A DEMO TAPE AROUND TO THE RECORD COMPANIES?
NAH, THAT'S A WASTE OF TIME. IF WE JUST CONCENTRATE ON WHAT WE'RE DOIN NOW, EVENTUALLY A RECORD COMPANY WILL NOTICE US
YEAH, BUT WE GOTTA DO SOMETHING BIG TO GET NOTICED.
HOW ABOUT THE PASADENA CIVIC AUDITORIUM? IS THAT BIG ENOUGH FOR YA? I BOOKED US THERE FOR A G.I.G.
MAN, HOW DID YOU MANAGE THAT WITHOUT A MANAGER OR AGENT? HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY FOR THAT?
BY SELLING THE PLACE OUT, THAT'S HOW!

THE BAND SETS OUT TO PROMOTE THE PASADENA GIG...
LISTEN, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW WE APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
YEAH, WE'VE GOT TO GET THE WORD AROUND AND WE NEED AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO HAND OUT FLYERS.
WITH THEIR FLYER BRIGADES, THE SHOW IN PASADENA IS A HIT. MANY MORE SOON FOLLOW.
THEIR SHOWS ATTRACT MANY NEW DEVOTED FANS, INCLUDING A DISC JOCKEY BY THE NAME OF...
RODNEY "KILLER B" BINGENHEIMER REMINDING YOU NOT TO MISS THE GREAT UNDERGROUND HARD ROCK BAND VAN HALEN THEY'LL BE PLAYING AT THE ROCK CORPORATION IN VAN NUYS TONIGHT!


THEN ONE DAY IN 1976, AT L.A.'S STARWOOD, GENE SIMMONS OF KISS CATCHES THE SHOW AND IS HIGHLY IMPRESSED!
YOU GUYS REALLY KICK ASS OUT THERE. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT. LET ME PRODUCE A DEMO OF SOME OF YOUR SONGS, AND IF I CAN GET YOU SIGNED, I'LL MANAGE YOU!
YEAH! ALL RIGHT!

UNFORTUNATELY, THE DEMO, WHICH INCLUDES 'RUNNIN' WITH THE DEVIL' AND 'HOUSE OF PAIN', IS REJECTED BY ALL THE MAJOR LABELS.
HARD ROCK IS DEAD! DISCO RULES! WHAT'S THE MATTER? DON'T YOU HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITH YOUR OWN BAND?
SORRY, GUYS, I DID THE BEST I COULD. HERE, YOU CAN KEEP THE DEMO TAPES, MAYBE YOU'LL GET SOME USE OUT OF THEM SOMEDAY.

VAN HALEN MOVES FORWARD UNDAUNTED. ROTH EVOLVES AS THE PRIMARY LYRICIST, WHILE OTHER MEMBERS CREATE THE MUSIC...

UH, LET'S SEE... MIGHT AS WELL JUMP. HMM. NAH!

NOW IT'S 1977, AT STARWOOD ONCE AGAIN. THE AUDIENCE IS GOING WILD.

TED TEMPLEMAN AND MO OSTIN OF WARNER ARE IN THE AUDIENCE. THEY LIKE WHAT THEY SEE... AND HEAR.

YOUR BAND IS LIVING PROOF THAT HARD ROCK N' ROLL IS NOT DEAD. I'M GOING BACK TO CONVINCE THEM TO SIGN YOU. HAVE YOU GOT A DEMO TAPE?

SURE DO!

WARNER WANTS TO SIGN VAN HALEN. THE USUAL CONTRACTUAL DIFFICULTIES ENSUE...

WE WANT TOTAL ARTISTIC CONTROL. VAN HALEN DOES NOT ANSWER TO ANYONE!

AND DON'T FORGET THE PATERNITY CLAUSE.

FEBRUARY 1978. THE SELF-TITLED ALBUM IS RELEASED.

IT WILL REACH #19 ON THE BILLBOARD ALBUM CHARTS - EXCELLENT CONSIDERING THIS IS STILL THE PEAK OF THE DISCO AGE.

MARCH 3. VAN HALEN BEGINS ITS FIRST U.S. TOUR.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S JUST GO OVER THIS CONTRACT HERE. FIRST OF ALL, NO LIGHT BROWN M&M's WILL BE SERVED BACKSTAGE AT ANY OF OUR SHOWS!
DAVE DEVISES HIS INFAMOUS BARRICADE SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING PROSPECTIVE AFTER-SHOW SEX PARTNERS.
ALLRIGHT, NOW, HERE'S A WALKIE-TALKIE FOR EACH OF YOU. WHEN EDWARD GOES INTO HIS SOLO, I'LL LET YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHICH YOUNG LADIES TO GIVE BACKSTAGE PASSES TO
ON TOUR, ROTH TRIES OUT HIS SYSTEM...
RED RIGHT, #16, SIX FEET BACK, RED T-SHIRT OUTASITE!
BY THE END OF THE SHOW THERE ARE HORDES OF LADIES IN THE BACKSTAGE AREA.
DAVE'S VORACIOUS SEXUAL APPETITE BECOMES LEGEND. HE ANSWERS HIS CRITICS BLUNTLY.
HEY, THEY CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT ABOUT ME, BUT THE TRUTH IS I'M BASICALLY A FAMILY-ORIENTED KIND OF GUY.
IN FACT I'VE PERSONALLY STARTED ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE FAMILIES THIS YEAR ALONE!

ROTH'S EXTROVERTED PERFORMANCE GARNERS THE BAND PRESS COVERAGE EVERYWHERE.

AS THE KINKS COVER 'YOU REALLY GOT ME' BECOMES THEIR FIRST TOP 40 HIT, VAN HALEN EMBARKS ON A TOUR OF THE U.K. SUPPORTING BLACK SABBATH.

HEY, OZ, IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT WORKING AND PARTYING WITH YOU!

LET'S JUST HOPE I MAKE IT THROUGH THE TOUR WITHOUT KILLING TONY IOMMI.

APRIL 1979. VAN HALEN II IS PRODUCED IN JUST SIX DAYS, AND RELEASED. IT WILL SELL FIVE MILLION COPIES AND REACH #6 ON THE U.S. ALBUM CHARTS.

APRIL 8: VAN HALEN BEGINS A 10 MONTH WORLD TOUR, HAULING OVER 22 TONS OF EQUIPMENT ACROSS CONTINENTS.

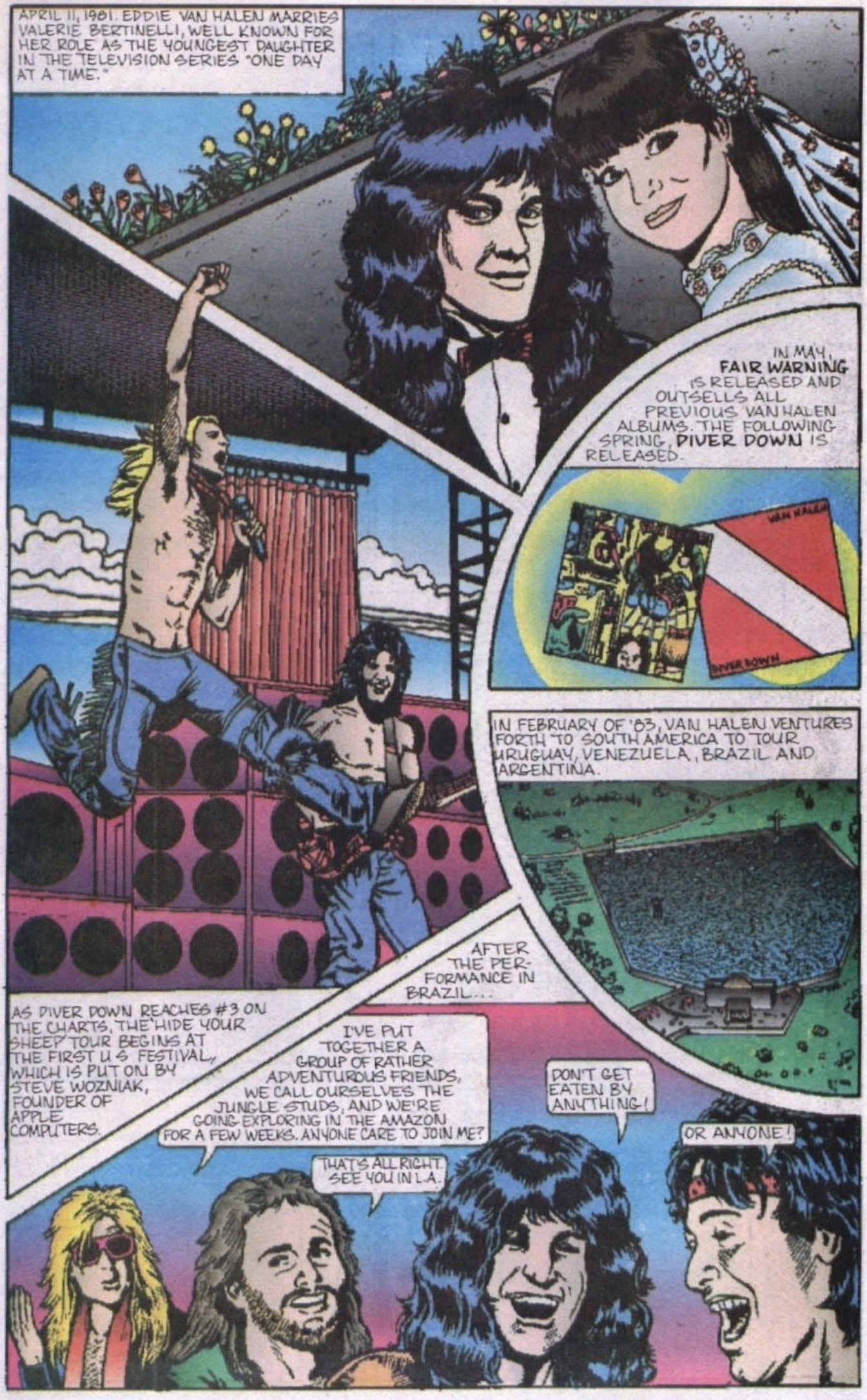
APRIL 7: THEY PLAY THE CALIFORNIA MUSIC FESTIVAL AT L.A.'S MEMORIAL COLISEUM.

WE'VE BEEN READING AN AWFUL LOT ABOUT HOW VAN HALEN USES DRUGS, AND HAS WILD PARTIES. SO, I THINK WE OUGHTA GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO WRITE ABOUT! WE'RE HAVING A LITTLE PARTY AFTER THE SHOW AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED!

THEY MAKE A STOP AT THE OKLAHOMA JAM, WHERE SAMMY HAGAR IS PLAYING...
I JUST WANTED TO SAY I REALLY LIKED YOUR SET. I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOUR CAREER EVER SINCE YOU WERE WITH RONNIE MONTROSE.
HEY, IT'S REALLY GREAT OF YOU TO STOP BY. I'M A FAN OF YOURS.
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN COLORADO IN PUEBLO...
MAN, THIS TOUR JUST NEVER ENDS! I HATE HOTELS... I HATE.. WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS?!
IT'S A LIGHT BROWN M+M! THIS IS A BLATANT VIOLATION OF OUR CONTRACT!
THE DESTRUCTION IS ENOUGH TO GET VAN HALEN PERMANENTLY BANNED FROM PUEBLO.

APRIL 13, IN SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, DAVID LEE ROTH COLLAPSES ON STAGE.
THE BAND HEADS FOR THE U.K. AS "DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY" BECOMES THEIR FIRST TOP 15 SINGLE.
BY JULY, THEY'RE BACK IN THE US. AT ANAHEIM STADIUM, THEY TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT... THEY PARACHUTE INTO THE STADIUM FROM A PLANE FLYING ABOVE...
OR SO IT SEEMED. IT TURNS OUT, THEY HAD HIRED LOOKALIKE PARATROOPERS.
HEY, GUESS WHAT!! THE ALBUM JUST WENT GOLD!
I THINK THIS CALLS FOR A MAJOR CELEBRATION!
CRASH
NOW I AM GOING TO PROVE THAT I CAN PARACHUTE INTO A STADIUM ALL BY MYSELF. I DON'T NEED ANYONE TO DO IT FOR ME.

ALL YOU'RE GOING TO PROVE IS THAT YOU'RE TOO FUCKIN' HIGH TO BE TRUSTED WITH SHEETS!
AUURGH! LET ME OUTA HERE!
BY NOW EDDIE IS STARTING TO GET SOME MAJOR RECOGNITION AS A GUITAR GENIUS. GUITAR MAGAZINE READERS VOTE HIM BEST ROCK GUITARIST.
YEAH! ALL RIGHT!
GUITAR PLAY
IN APRIL 1980, "WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST" IS RELEASED.
VAN HALEN
AND THE "INVASION" TOUR BEGINS.
MAY 1980, IN ITALY... DAVID LEE ROTH BREAKS HIS NOSE DOING ONE OF HIS FAMOUS LEAPS.
OH SHIT!


APRIL 11, 1981. EDDIE VAN HALEN MARRIES VALERIE BERTINELLI, WELL KNOWN FOR HER ROLE AS THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER IN THE TELEVISION SERIES "ONE DAY AT A TIME."
IN MAY, FAIR WARNING IS RELEASED AND OUTSELLS ALL PREVIOUS VAN HALEN ALBUMS. THE FOLLOWING SPRING, DIVER DOWN IS RELEASED.
VAN HALEN
DIVER DOWN
IN FEBRUARY OF '83, VAN HALEN VENTURES FORTH TO SOUTH AMERICA TO TOUR URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA.
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE IN BRAZIL...
AS DIVER DOWN REACHES #3 ON THE CHARTS, THE HIDE YOUR SHEEP TOUR BEGINS AT THE FIRST U.S. FESTIVAL, WHICH IS PUT ON BY STEVE WOZNIAK, FOUNDER OF APPLE COMPUTERS.
I'VE PUT TOGETHER A GROUP OF RATHER ADVENTUROUS FRIENDS, WE CALL OURSELVES THE JUNGLE STUDS, AND WE'RE GOING EXPLORING IN THE AMAZON FOR A FEW WEEKS. ANYONE CARE TO JOIN ME?
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. SEE YOU IN L.A.
DON'T GET EATEN BY ANYTHING!
OR ANYONE!

IN THE JUNGLE, DAVE GETS QUITE A BIT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR AS HE FALLS VICTIM TO INTESTINAL PARASITES, AND AMOEBIC DYSENTERY.

YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT, DAVE?

YEAH, I'LL MAKE IT. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT MY STOMACH, THOUGH.

THWACK

ONCE RECOVERED, DAVE TAKES TO HIS OTHER FAVORITE PASTIME, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING. HE TRAVELS TO INDONESIA WHERE HE SCALES THE FACE OF A 5000 FOOT MOUNTAIN.

NOW **THIS** IS WHAT I CALL SIGHTSEEING!

MEANWHILE, EDDIE LENDS A HAND TO MICHAEL JACKSON BY ADDING A SEARING GUITAR RIFF TO THE SONG 'BEAT IT.'

HEY, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, EDDIE.

THAT'S COOL.

THE VAN HALEN TOUCH HELPS GIVE THE ALBUM 'THRILLER' A BRIDGE TO A WHOLE NEW AUDIENCE. IT BECOMES THE BIGGEST ALBUM OF ALL TIME. EDDIE RECEIVES NO PAYMENT.

MAY 28, 1983, SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA: THE SECOND US FESTIVAL. VAN HALEN MAKES HEADLINES BY DEMANDING AND RECEIVING $1.5 MILLION FOR A SINGLE CONCERT, THE LARGEST FEE EVER PAID.

ANYBODY WANT TO TAKE THEIR CLOTHES OFF?

THE ATTENDANCE TURNS OUT TO BE INSUFFICIENT TO COVER THE COSTS, AND THERE WILL BE NO THIRD FESTIVAL.

THE BAND MEETS TO DISCUSS THE NEXT ALBUM...

ALL RIGHT, DAVE, HERE'S THE DEAL. WE'VE DONE OUR PART, WE'VE WRITTEN ALL THE MUSIC. NOW WE NEED YOU TO WRITE ALL THE LYRICS.

NO PROBLEM, ED. HAVE LARRY THE ROADIE STOP BY IN HIS '51 LOWRIDER, AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.

DAVE HOPS IN THE BACK SEAT, WHILE LARRY DRIVES THROUGH THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS AND UP THE COAST.

HEY, LARRY, WHAT D'YA THINK OF THIS: TOP JIMMY COOKS, TOP JIMMY SWINGS, TOP JIMMY, HE'S THE KING...?

HE WRITES ALL THE LYRICS TO '1984' THIS WAY.

ON DECEMBER 31, 1983, '1984' IS RELEASED. THE ALBUM GOES TO #2, WHILE MICHAEL JACKSON'S 'THRILLER' SITS AT #1.

'JUMP' BECOMES A MEGA-HIT, TOPPING THE SINGLES CHART FOR FIVE WEEKS. THE VIDEO IS SEEN CONSTANTLY ON MTV. THIS PAVES THE WAY FOR A RETURN OF HARD ROCK TO MAIN-STREAM RADIO.

MTV PROMOTES A "LOST WEEKEND WITH VAN HALEN" CONTEST. MORE THAN A MILLION ENTRANTS RESPOND.

IN AUGUST, VAN HALEN PLAYS THE U.K. HEAVY METAL FESTIVAL AT DONINGTON.

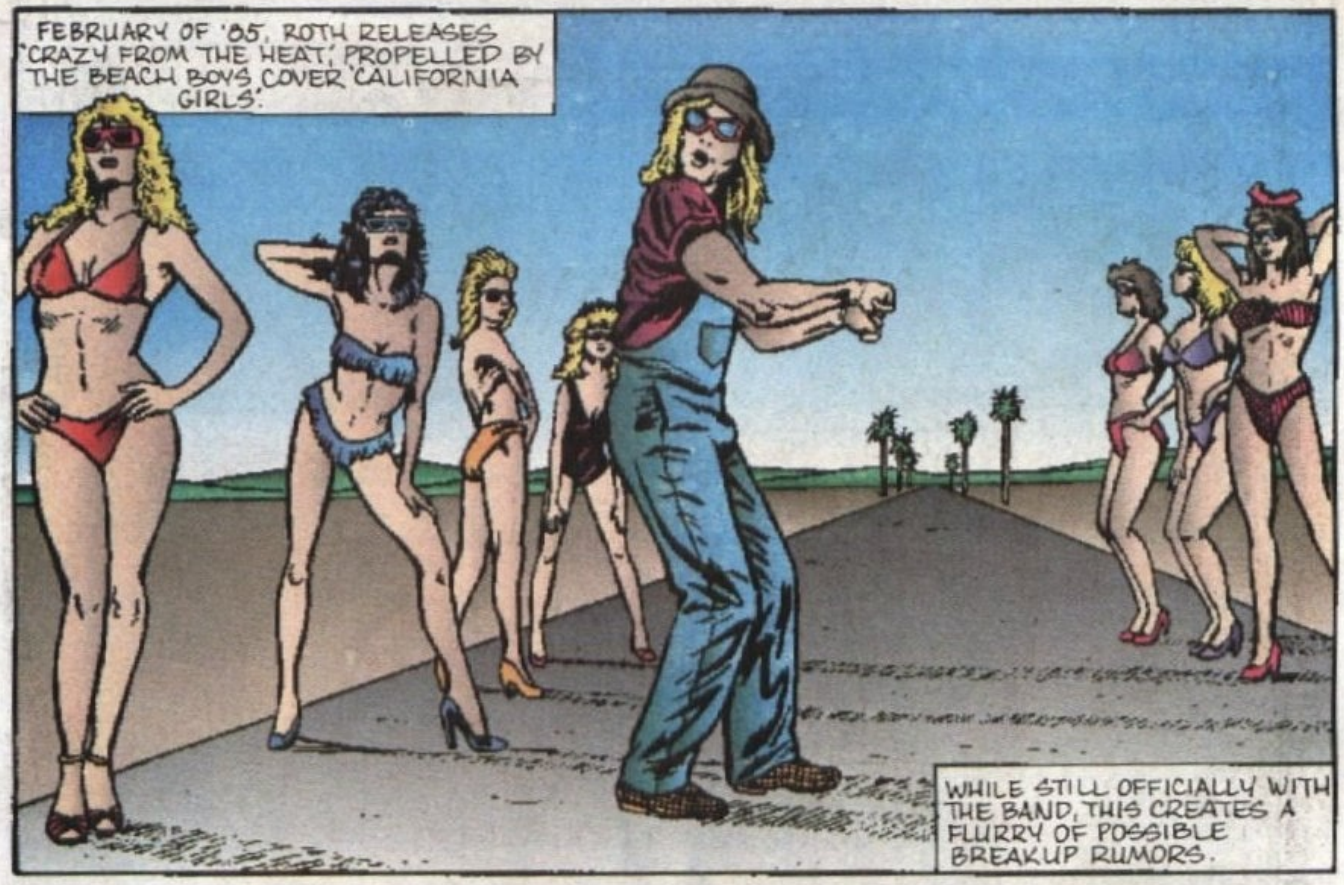
MOTLEY CRUE

RATT

BY THIS TIME, THE HEAVY METAL PHENOMENON IS STARTING TO KICK IN BIG-TIME. THE COMPETITION DOESN'T AFFECT VAN HALEN'S POPULARITY, RATHER IT ENHANCES THEIR POSITION AS LEADERS IN MUSIC.

OZZY OSBOURNE

VIDEOS FOR 'PANAMA' AND 'HOT FOR TEACHER' HELP PROLONG 1984'S POPULARITY.


FEBRUARY OF '85, ROTH RELEASES 'CRAZY FROM THE HEAT,' PROPELLED BY THE BEACH BOYS COVER 'CALIFORNIA GIRLS.'
WHILE STILL OFFICIALLY WITH THE BAND, THIS CREATES A FLURRY OF POSSIBLE BREAKUP RUMORS.

AT L.A.'S HARD ROCK CAFE, A FAVORITE HANGOUT, EDDIE, WITH VALERIE, IS PRESENTING THE RESTAURANT WITH A VERY SPECIAL ARTIFACT: HIS GUITAR.
VALERIE, CAN YOU HOLD THE GUITAR AND PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE PLAYING IT?
CAN YOU RUN OUT OF FILM?

IS VAN HALEN BREAKING UP?
NO, WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR DAVE'S ALBUM TO RUN ITS COURSE THEN WE'LL GET SERIOUS ABOUT THE NEXT VAN HALEN ALBUM.

DAVE RELEASES HIS NEXT SINGLE: JUST A GIGOLO / I AIN'T GOT NOBODY.

DAVE, ARE YOU LEAVING VAN HALEN?
VAN WHO?
IT WAS FINALLY OFFICIAL. IN JUNE OF 1985, DAVE CONFIRMS THAT HE IS QUITTING THE BAND.

THE BAND MEMBERS ARE WITHOUT A SINGER...
WARNER SAYS WE SHOULDN'T CONTINUE USING THE NAME VAN HALEN WITH DAVE GONE.
FUCK THAT!

ONE FATEFUL DAY, EDDIE GOES TO PICK UP HIS CAR FROM THE REPAIR SHOP...
SO, WHAT'S GOING DOWN WITH THE BAND, ED?
WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE WE NEED A NEW SINGER.
YEAH? WHY NOT GIVE SAMMY HAGAR A SHOT? HE COMES IN HERE ALL THE TIME, HE'S ALSO INTO FAST CARS. HE'S A REAL GREAT GUY, YOU'D LIKE HIM. I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, LET ME GIVE YOU HIS NUMBER!
ALL RIGHT!
THE NEXT DAY...
IS THIS SAMMY? EDDIE VAN HALEN CALLING. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE HEARD, BUT WE NEED A NEW LEAD SINGER AND I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO STOP BY...
WELL, UH... ALL RIGHT, SURE!
THEY GET TOGETHER AND JAM...
MAN, THAT WAS UNBELIEVABLE!
YEAH, SO YOU WANNA JOIN MY BAND OR WHAT?
HA HA!
HAGAR JOINS VAN HALEN ON THE CONDITION THAT HE CAN STILL PURSUE HIS SOLO CAREER WHEN VAN HALEN IS NOT TOURING OR RECORDING. '5150' IS RELEASED, AND IS THE FIRST VAN HALEN ALBUM TO GO TO #1.
THE PRESS STARTS CALLING THE NEW INCARNATION "VAN HAGAR" TO DIFFERENTIATE IT FROM THE ROTH VERSION.
NOW BEGINS A PERIOD OF PUBLIC BICKERING, FACILITATED BY THE PRESS.
THIS IS THE WAY IT IS, OKAY? ROTH DID NOT MAKE VAN HALEN...
VAN HALEN MADE ROTH.

THE 5150 TOUR BEGINS...

DAVE SUCKS

HA, HA, HA!

MEANWHILE, DAVE'S MOVIE DEAL FALLS THROUGH. HE RETURNS TO ROCK WITH A NEW BAND FEATURING EX-ZAPPA AXE MAN STEVE VAI.

HIS FIRST ALBUM WITH THE NEW BAND, **EAT 'EM AND SMILE**, GOES TO #3. ROTH BEGINS A 10 MONTH TOUR.

DAVID LEE ROTH

IN JANUARY OF 1987, EDDIE BECOMES ILL WHILE VACATIONING OFF THE COAST OF AUSTRALIA. HE HAS A TEMPERATURE OF 105° FROM A MOSQUITO BITE.

I THINK YOU BETTER CALL A DOCTOR.

ROTH'S NEXT ALBUM, 'SKY-SCRAPER', GOES TO #6 ON THE U.S. TOP ALBUMS.

DAVID LEE ROTH

SKYSCRAPER

MAY 27, 1988, VAN HALEN RE-TURNS TO THE STAGE, HEADLINING THE 'MONSTERS OF ROCK' TOUR WITH METALLICA, THE SCORPIONS, DOKKEN, AND KINGDOM COME.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS THE DAY OF THE ALL-DAY FESTIVAL IS OVER. ATTENDANCE IS VERY DISAPPOINTING. THE CONCERT IS VAN HALEN'S FIRST MAJOR FAILURE.

IN JUNE, VAN HALEN'S OU812 IS RELEASED. IT GOES DIRECTLY TO #1.

SEPTEMBER 29, THEY BEGIN A TOUR OF 45 U.S. CITIES.

SEPTEMBER, ROTH RETURNS FOR SELECTED DATES IN THE U.K. INCLUDING WEMBLEY ARENA.

NOT MUCH IS HEARD FROM VAN HALEN OR ROTH FOR THE NEXT YEAR. AND THEN, IN SPRING 1990

I'M HERE IN CABO WABO, BAJA, CALIFORNIA, WHERE VAN HALEN IS OPENING THEIR OWN NEW **NIGHT-CLUB/RESORT**! LET'S TALK TO THE BAND AND SEE WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON!

WE JUST WANTED TO HAVE A NICE RELAXED TROPICAL PLACE WHERE MUSICIANS FROM ALL OVER CAN COME TO HANG OUT, JAM, AND **ESCAPE**

SPEAKING OF **JAMMING**... SHALL WE?

AND FOR THOSE OF YOU WONDERING ABOUT **DAVID LEE ROTH**... HE'S CURRENTLY IN VANCOUVER FINISHING UP A NEW ALBUM OF HIS OWN. BUT FOR NOW... **TAKE IT AWAY, GUYS!**

...SPREAD YOUR WINGS, WE'LL GET HIGHER AND HIGHER... STRAIGHT UP WE'LL CLIMB!!!

THE END!

ROCKOMICS 6

MINI-BIO

sammy HAGAR

TODD LOREN - STORY
STEVE GOUPIL - ART
SEAN KONOT - LETTERS

IN 1974, FOUR YEARS PRIOR TO THE DEBUT OF VAN HALEN, RONNIE MONTROSE IS BLAZING A ROCK N' ROLL TRAIL AGAINST MUCH OPPOSITION. AS A GUITARIST FOR HERBIE HANCOCK, VAN MORRIGON, AND EDGAR WINTER, HIS CREDENTIALS ARE IMPRESSIVE.

TOGETHER WITH LEAD VOCALIST SAMMY HAGAR, HE FORMS THE SELF-NAMED CALIFORNIA HARD-ROCKING BAND MONTROSE. SIGNED TO WARNER, PRODUCED BY TED TEMPLEMAN, THE BAND IMMEDIATELY RECIEVES HARSH CRITICISM...

ROLLING STONE CALLS OUR ALBUM "DISAPPOINTING". AND EVERYONE ELSE IS SAYIN' WE'RE LIKE RIPPING OFF LED ZEPPELIN OR SOMETHING!

I DON'T GET IT! WHY ARE THEY ALL AGAINST US?

BESIDES, WE'RE THE FIRST REALLY HARD ROCK BAND TO COME OUT OF L.A. WE'RE GOIN AGAINST THE TIDE, SO NATURALLY WE'LL GET A LOT OF OPPOSITION!

HEY, DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU MAN! CONSIDER THE SOURCE, Y'KNOW? THESE REVIEWERS ARE INTO THE EAGLES, JAMES TAYLOR AND CAROLE KING. THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND HARD ROCK.

AT LEAST THE ALBUM WENT GOLD. THAT SHOWS WE'RE DOIN' SOMETHING RIGHT.

THEN ONE DAY...
MAN, WHERE DOES WARNER COME OFF CLONING MONTROSE? A SELF-NAMED HARD ROCK BAND FROM L.A., PRODUCED BY TEMPLEMAN, WITH A BLONDE LEAD SINGER! SHIT!
WHEN THE CAPITOL CONTRACT FINALLY EXPIRES, HAGAR SIGNS WITH GEFFEN, AND RELEASES "STANDING HAMPTON" AND "THREE LOCK BOX". BOTH GO GOLD.
IN '84, SAMMY GETS TOGETHER WITH NEAL SCHON OF JOURNEY, KENNY AARONSON, AND MICHAEL SCHRIEVE FROM SANTANA FOR A ONE-TIME ALBUM CALLED HAGAR, SCHON, AARONSON, AND SCHRIEVE.
AT FIRST, THERE IS A LOT OF HYPE, AS IF HEAS WOULD BE A "SUPER-GROUP". WHEN THEY REFUSE TO TOUR, AND SALES ARE MILD, THERE'S A BACKLASH...
I NEVER SAID HEAS WOULD BE SOME KIND OF SUPERGROUP. A FEW FRIENDS GOT TOGETHER AND JAMMED, PUT OUT AN ALBUM. THAT'S IT.
LATER IN '84, "VOA" IS RELEASED, GOING GOLD, AND GIVING SAMMY HIS FIRST MAJOR TELEVISION EXPOSURE ON MTV WITH THE VIDEO "I CAN'T DRIVE 55"...

FINALLY, THINGS ARE GOING PRETTY WELL FOR A SMALL TOWN FIGHTER'S SON.

CLICK

WELL, I'VE FINALLY ESTABLISHED MYSELF AS A SOLO ARTIST. I GUESS I MADE THE RIGHT MOVE LEAVING MONTROSE. I'M JUST NOT THE TYPE OF GUY TO BE IN A BAND.

IN THE MUSIC NEWS, IT LOOKS LIKE VAN HALEN HAS DEFINITELY DISBANDED. BOTH DAVID LEE ROTH AND EDDIE VAN HALEN HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAVE PARTED WAYS, AND HAVE BEGUN HURLING ACCUSATIONS AND INSULTS AT EACH OTHER.

MUSIC NEWS

NOW THERE'S A BAND THAT COULD'VE USED SOMEONE LIKE ME. IT'S TOO BAD THEY LET ROTH TAKE THE CENTER STAGE FOR SO LONG. PEOPLE THINK ***HE'S*** VAN HALEN, JUST LIKE THEY USED TO THINK ***I*** WAS MONTROSE.

RUNG

I WONDER WHO THEY'RE GONNA GET TO TAKE HIS PLACE...? NOT THAT MANY HARD ROCK SHOUTERS AROUND WHO COULD PULL IT OFF. WELL, SHIT, I GUESS IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM. TOO BAD, THOUGH, VAN HALEN IS ONE KICK-ASS BAND...

HELLO.

IS THIS SAMMY HAGAR?

THE ONE AND ONLY.

HOW YA DOIN', THIS IS EDDIE VAN HALEN CALLING...

END

THIS IS A SATIRICAL STORY- NOT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY!

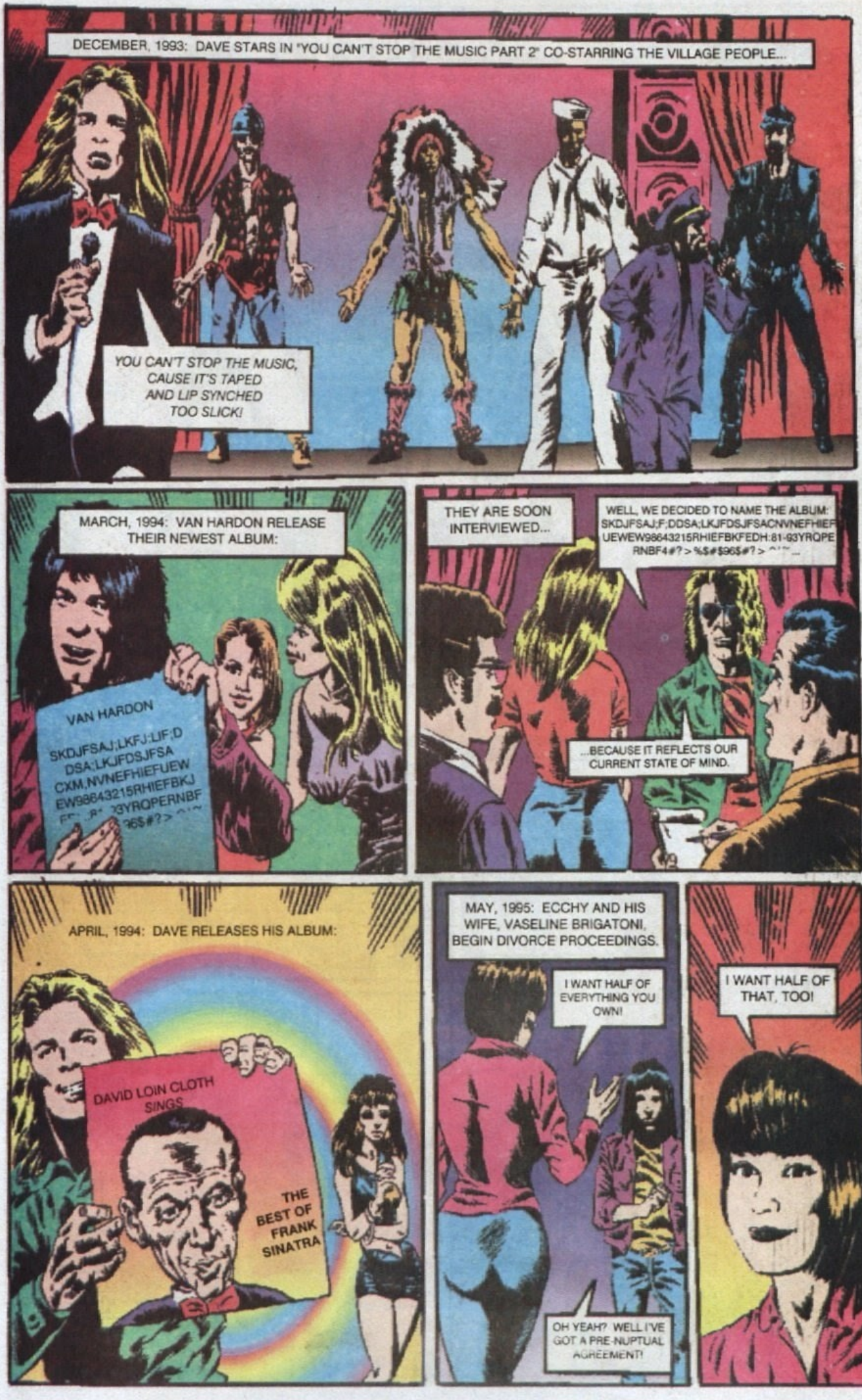
THEY'VE HAD THEIR STRUGGLE TO THE TOP, THEIR HEYDAY, THEIR FIGHTS, THEIR ARGUMENTS, THEIR DISAGREEMENTS, THEIR CONFLICTS, THEIR QUARRELS, THEIR BATTLES, THEIR CONFRONTATIONS, THEIR ARMED INSURRECTIONS, THEIR COUP ATTEMPTS, THEIR REGIONAL BORDER DISPUTES, THEIR MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS, BUT JUST WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR...

VAN HARDON

JAN. 1992: ECCHY VAN HARDON AND DAVID LOIN CLOTH ARE ACCIDENTALLY SEATED NEXT TO EACH OTHER AT THE HARD LUCK CAFE IN HOLLYWOOD.
WELL, ECCHY WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT? I THOUGHT THE WIFE KEPT YOU ON A PRETTY SHORT LEASH!
OH YEAH? WELL I'VE GOT MORE GOLD RECORDS THAN YOU!
I'VE GOT MORE PAIRS OF STRETCH PANTS THAN YOU!
YEAH, WELL I'VE GOT MORE PHONY HOLLYWOOD FRIENDS!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WELL, ANYWAY, I'VE GOT MORE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN!
YEAH? WELL I'VE GOT A FAMOUS WIFE!
WELL AT LEAST I CAN SING AND ACT!
BUT YOU CAN'T PLAY AN INSTRUMENT. UNLESS YOU COUNT YOUR,UH...
WEINIE?

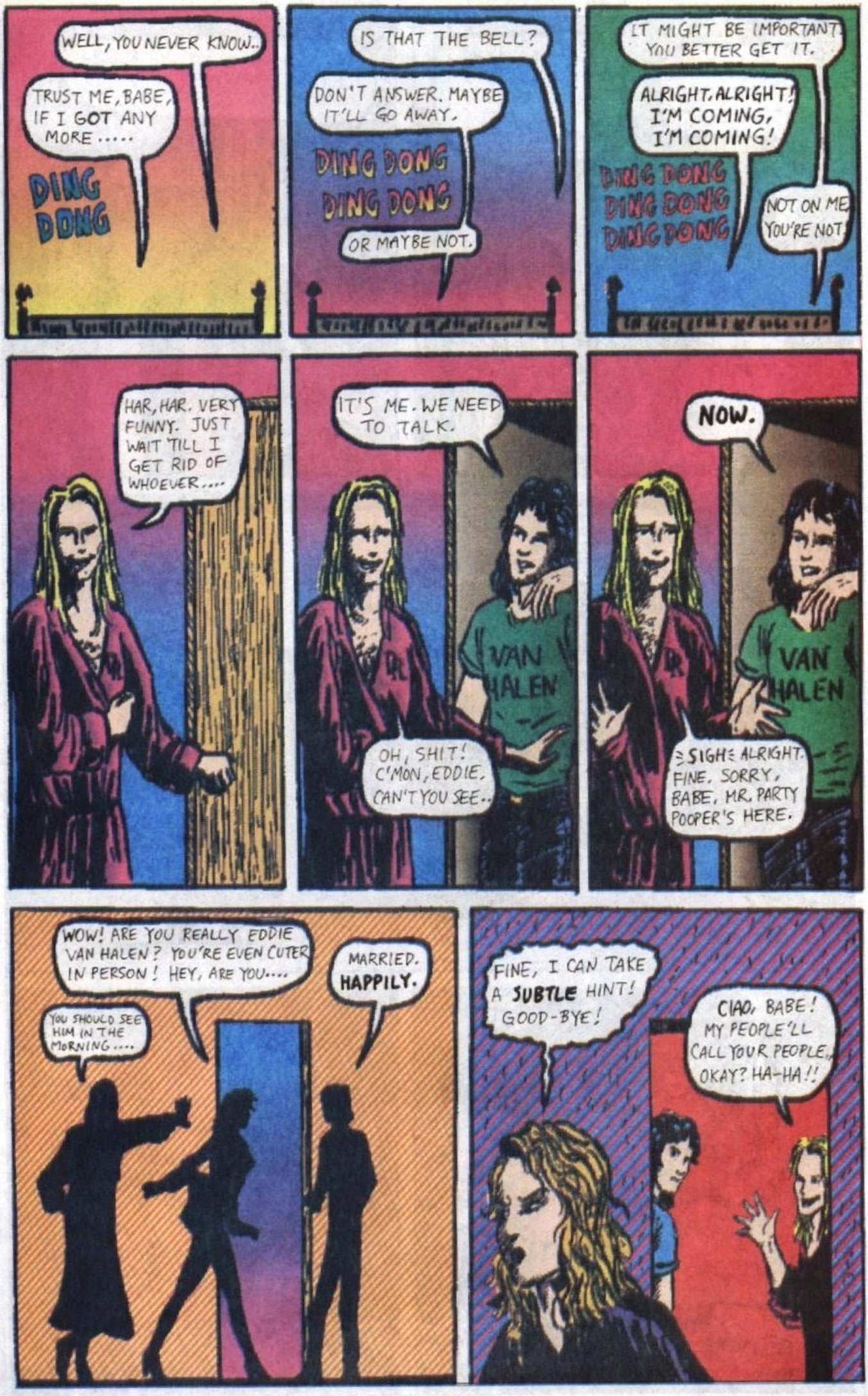
WRITTEN BY TODD LOREN, ART BY KEN LANDGRAF

MARCH, 1993: DAVE STARS IN "HOT, WET AND JUICY", A REMAKE OF "SINGING IN THE RAIN".
I'M SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, ALTHOUGH I'M VERY VAIN, THOUGH MY HAIR IS RECEDING, I'M HAPPY AGAIN...
MAY, 1993: VAN HARDON PUTS ON A SHOW CALLED MAMMOTHS OF ROCK, A ROCK FESTIVAL FEATURING GUMS N' NOSES, METALLECCHA, JON BOVI, SNOTLEY CRUE, DED LEPERS, STROLLING BONES, SLID LOW, WHITEFLAKE, AEROSTIFFS, ZED LEPPELIN, POSIN', AND VAN HARDON.
NOBODY SHOWS.
FEBRUARY, 1994: DESPERATE FOR MONEY, AND NAGGED TO DEATH BY HIS WIFE, ECCHY STARS IN THE SHORT-LIVED TELEVISION SERIES: ONE DAVE AT A TIME, A MIRTHFUL LOOK AT HIS EARLY DAYS WITH VAN HARDON, WITH SAMMY HAGRRR PLAYING THE PART OF DAVID LOIN CLOTH...
NOW, DAVE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?
YEAH, DAVE! WE'VE HAD NO ONE TO HELP US REPRIMAND THE HIRED HELP!
WELL, HIRE SOMEONE TO HELP YELL AT THE HIRED HELP!
HA HA
BUT THEN WE'LL STILL NEED SOMEONE TO YELL AT THEM!
HA HA HA
HA
SO COME CLEAN DAVE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WELL, ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN WITH SOME GROUPIES IN THE VAN.
AND YOU DIDN'T SAVE ME ANY?
HA
HA HA
HA HA HA HA


DECEMBER, 1993: DAVE STARS IN "YOU CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC PART 2" CO-STARRING THE VILLAGE PEOPLE...
YOU CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC, CAUSE IT'S TAPED AND LIP SYNCHED TOO SLICK!
MARCH, 1994: VAN HARDON RELEASE THEIR NEWEST ALBUM:
VAN HARDON
SKDJFSAJ;LKFJ:LIF;D DSA;LKJFDSJFSA CXM,NVNEFHIEFUEW EW98643215RHIEFBKJ
THEY ARE SOON INTERVIEWED...
WELL, WE DECIDED TO NAME THE ALBUM: SKDJFSAJ;F;DDSA;LKJFDSJFSACNVNEFHIEF UEWEW98643215RHIEFBKFEDH:81-93YRQPE RNBF4#?>%$#$96$#?>
...BECAUSE IT REFLECTS OUR CURRENT STATE OF MIND.
APRIL, 1994: DAVE RELEASES HIS ALBUM:
DAVID LOIN CLOTH SINGS
THE BEST OF FRANK SINATRA
MAY, 1995: ECCHY AND HIS WIFE, VASELINE BRIGATONI, BEGIN DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS.
I WANT HALF OF EVERYTHING YOU OWN!
OH YEAH? WELL I'VE GOT A PRE-NUPTUAL AGREEMENT!
I WANT HALF OF THAT, TOO!

JUNE, 1995: WITH THE FAILURE OF VAN HARDON'S LAST ALBUM TO REACH NUMBER ONE, CAUSING REJOICING AT BILLBORED'S TYPESETTING DEPARTMENT, ECCHY, SAMMY, AND THE TWO OTHER NON-ENTITY VAN HARDONS PONDER THEIR FUTURE...
I THINK IT'S TIME TO PULL OUT MY BIG WEAPON!
CAN'T YOU WAIT TIL THE GROUPIES GET HERE?
NO, YOU BLITHERING DOLT! I MEAN MY ACE IN THE HOLE! I'VE BEEN WAITING TEN YEARS FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT, AND THIS IS IT!
IT'S DAVID LOIN CLOTH! BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE MORTAL ENEMIES!
OH DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! THAT WAS ALL A BIG P.R. PLOY TO INCREASE OUR COMBINED ALBUM SALES!
THAT' RIGHT, WE'RE GREAT PALS!
BUT WHAT ABOUT ME?
UH, EXCUSE ME, BUT I'M WITH MANNY'S MOVERS. WE'RE HERE TO PICK-UP TWO TONS OF RED JUMPSUITS...

A VAN HALEN STORY BY DEAN HSIEH
A LUXURIOUS HOTEL ROOM
WHERE YOU CAN ALWAYS HEAR LAUGHS
COLOR BY imagi·mation
"HOME" TO DAVID LEE ROTH
LAUGHS OF PLEASURE
HAHAHAHAHA
....STOP IT, DAVE. THAT TICKLES.
REALLY? DOES THIS TICKLE?
UM,...YEAH...ALL THE WAY... GIVE ME EVERY...
BABE, DO I LOOK LIKE I'M HOLDING BACK?
LAUGHS


WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW..
TRUST ME, BABE, IF I GOT ANY MORE.....
DING DONG
IS THAT THE BELL?
DON'T ANSWER. MAYBE IT'LL GO AWAY.
DING DONG DING DONG
OR MAYBE NOT.
IT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT. YOU BETTER GET IT.
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT! I'M COMING, I'M COMING!
DING DONG DING DONG DING DONG
NOT ON ME, YOU'RE NOT!
HAR, HAR. VERY FUNNY. JUST WAIT 'TILL I GET RID OF WHOEVER....
IT'S ME. WE NEED TO TALK.
VAN HALEN
OH, SHIT! C'MON, EDDIE, CAN'T YOU SEE..
NOW.
VAN HALEN
=SIGH= ALRIGHT. FINE. SORRY, BABE, MR. PARTY POOPER'S HERE.
WOW! ARE YOU REALLY EDDIE VAN HALEN? YOU'RE EVEN CUTER IN PERSON! HEY, ARE YOU....
YOU SHOULD SEE HIM IN THE MORNING....
MARRIED. HAPPILY.
FINE, I CAN TAKE A SUBTLE HINT! GOOD-BYE!
CIAO, BABE! MY PEOPLE'LL CALL YOUR PEOPLE, OKAY? HA-HA!!

JUST ONE? WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAVE? CUTTING DOWN?
WELL, AFTER MUCH.... EXPERIMENTATION, I'VE FOUND THAT QUALITY BEATS QUANTITY EVERY SINGLE TIME!
OKAY, MAN, LET'S CUT THE BULLSHIT, HUH? JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU CAME TO TALK ABOUT.
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO "CUT THE BULLSHIT," YOU AND I BOTH KNOW WHAT.
UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN DEAF AND BLIND, YOU MUST'VE KNOWN ALL THE RUMORS: "VAN HALEN WITHOUT SINGER!" "ROTH GOES SOLO!" "DAVE QUITS VAN HALEN!" WHAT ME AND THE GUYS WANT.... DESERVE... TO KNOW IS.... ...ARE YOU QUITTING?
YEAH.

I.... SEE.
OH, C'MON, EDDIE! YOU KNOW HOW IT IS! IT'S TIME TO EXPAND MY HORIZONS! INSTEAD OF DAVID LEE ROTH, SINGER OF VAN HALEN, I CAN BE DAVID LEE ROTH, SINGER OF HIS BAND....
...EVEN DAVID LEE ROTH, MOVIE STAR! I REMEMBER MY DAD TELLING ME: "IT'S NOT HOW YOU PLAY THE GAME, OR IF YOU WIN OR LOSE, IT'S HOW YOU LOOK!" AND I GOTTA SAY, BOY, DO I LOOK GOOD RIGHT NOW!!
THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WHEN YOU'RE HOT! I'D BE MUCH BETTER OFF ON MY OWN, DON'T YOU SEE? YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, EDDIE? EDDIE? DON'T YOU?
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD A BIG EGO, DAVE. BUT WE PUT UP WITH IT.
WE'VE PUT UP WITH A LOT OF YOUR SHIT. FOR WHAT?
FOR THE BAND.

NOW YOU WANT TO QUIT?! WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, DAVE, THE WORLD GOES ON WITHOUT YOU, AND SO WILL THE BAND.
MAYBE ONE DAY YOU'LL REALIZE THE BAND'S NAME IS, AND ALWAYS WILL BE, VAN HALEN, NOT DAVID LEE ROTH.
SLAM!
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA
THE LAUGHS BEGIN AGAIN. THIS TIME, IT'S NOT LAUGHS OF PLEASURE. IT'S DIFFERENT.
IT MIGHT BE LAUGHS OF RELIEF, OR OF PRIDE.
OR MAYBE A BIT OF REGRET OR BITTERNESS.
PERHAPS NOT EVEN HE'LL EVER KNOW FOR SURE.

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